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Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Iranian rial, of which 10 equal 1 toman.

Government

General

Iran is located in Southwest Asia and occupies the W part of the great Iranian plateau between the Indus River and the Tigris River. It is bounded on the N by Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea, and Turkmenistan; on the E by Afghanistan and Pakistan; on the S by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman; and on the W by Iraq and Turkey. Part of the E bank of the Shatt al Arab waterway is situated in Iran.

After an 8-year war with Iraq, Iran restored diplomatic relations in 1990 and is still trying to work out an agreement concerning the freedom of navigation and sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab waterway.

Iran has a dispute with the United Arab Emirates concerning the territorial claims of several islands in the Persian Gulf.

The terrain consists of a rugged and mountainous rim, a high central basin with deserts and mountains, and small plains along both coasts.

The climate is mostly arid or semiarid, with a subtropical area along the Caspian Sea coast.



Flag of Iran

Iran is a theocratic republic. The constitution, which was approved by a national referendum in 1979, gives supreme authority to a religious/spiritual leader or, in the absence of a single leader, to a council of religious leaders.

An 83-member Assembly of Experts was established in 1982 and is popularly elected every 8 years. Its mandate is to interpret the constitution and select the religious leaders.

Candidates for election are examined by a 12-member Council of Guardians.

Legislative power is held by the 290-member directly-elected Majles-e-Shura-ye-Eslami (Islamic Consultative Assembly), whose members serve 4-year terms, but all legislation is subject to approval by the Council of Guardians.

The President, who is directly elected to a maximum of two consecutive 4-year terms, is head of the executive and appoints Ministers, subject to approval by the Majles-e-Shura-ye-Eslami.

The legal system is based on Islamic law.

The capital is Tehran.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Revolution Day	February 11
Iranian New Year (Eyde Nowrooz)	March 21 and 24
Oil Nationalization Day	March 29
Iranian Islamic Republic Day	April 1
13th Day after Nowrooz	April 2
Rising of 15th Khordad Day	June 5

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Eid Al-Fitr (End of Ramadan), Eid Al-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), Ashoora, the Prophet's Birthday, Birthday of Imam Ali, Martyrdom of Imam Ali, Martyrdom of Imam Jaffar Sadegh, Birthday of Hazrat Emam Reza, Eid ul Ghadeer Al Khom, Tassoa, Ashoura, Arbaein, Death of the Holy Prophet and Martyrdom of Imam Hassan, and Birth of the Holy Prophet and Imam Jaffar Sadegh.

Industries

Petroleum and petrochemical production are the major industries. Other industries include textiles, food processing (particularly sugar refining and vegetable oil production), construction materials, metal fabricating, ores, coal, and armaments.

Agriculture includes wheat, rice, wool, cotton, fruits, sugar beets, caviar, opium poppies, tobacco, and livestock.

Languages

The official language is Farsi (Persian). Other languages include Kurdish, Luri (in the W), Arabic, Gilaki (in the N), Mazandarami (in the N), Baluchi (in the SE), and Turkish dialects (in the NW).

Mined Areas

Vessels are advised that Mined Areas exist in the N part of the Persian Gulf. Information concerning swept routes should be obtained from the local authorities. Mine sightings should be reported to the naval authorities by INMARSAT (150 5612)

or to Coalition naval vessels on VHF channel 13 or 16. Details of areas reported to be dangerous due to mines are also promulgated by Notice to Mariners issued by the Middle East Navigation Aids Service (MENAS) and by MARAD advisories.

Regulations

General

Alcoholic drinks are prohibited in Iranian ports.

All crew, men or women, should strictly observe the Islamic way of dressing (Hejab).

Reporting

All vessels heading for Iranian ports should report to Bandar Abbas Port Control, through Bandar Abbas (EQI), on passing Ras al Kuh (25°48'N., 57°17'E) stating their ETA at the Strait of Hormuz and destination. If clearance is not received before passing Bandar Abbas (27°11'N., 56°17'E), vessels should proceed to the anchorage off that port.

All tankers intending to load or unload crude oil or petroleum products at Iranian terminals must advise, at least 72 hours before their arrival, the terminal authorities of their fully authorized agent at the terminal concerned.

Submarine Operating Areas

Submarine Exercise Areas

The following are submarine exercise areas declared by the Iranian navy:

1. **Area SO1.**—Bounded by lines joining:
 - a. 26°32.05'N, 56°49.05'E.
 - b. 26°36.08'N, 56°53.30'E.
 - c. 26°47.00'N, 56°50.05'E.
 - d. 26°43.05'N, 56°40.08'E.
2. **Area SO2.**—Bounded by lines joining:
 - a. 25°18'N, 58°00'E.
 - b. 25°28'N, 58°32'E.
 - c. 25°28'N, 58°00'E.
 - d. 25°18'N, 58°32'E.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is 3 hours 30 minutes fast of UT(GMT). Daylight Savings Time (4 hours 30 minutes fast of UT(GMT)) is maintained from the end of April through the end of September; the exact changeover dates should be obtained from local authorities.

Note.—The Iranian year is a solar year running from 21 March to 20 March.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

There is no U.S. Embassy or diplomatic representation. It is reported that diplomatic messages may be passed to the authorities through the Embassy of Switzerland.